Please amend claims 1, 40, 49, 88 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

1.   A method, executed by a server, for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on each topic to questions posed by users in communication with client interfaces, the server being in communication with the client interfaces and the set of experts, and the method comprising;

receiving at the server a question received from a user via one of the client interfaces;

routing the question to one of the experts selected by the user, wherein said routing the question comprises displaying the question with other questions for said one of the experts on the personal expert interface of said one of the experts;

receiving a command from the selected expert in response to the question; and

executing the command from the selected expert automatically.

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7.   (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a command includes receiving a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question another one of the experts at substantially the same time.

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40.   A method for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on each topic to questions posed by users via client interfaces in communication with a server and with the set of experts, the method comprising:

receiving at one of the client interfaces a question on the selected topic;

transmitting the question from the client interface to the server;

routing the question to a plurality of experts by posting the question in plurality of locations, wherein each of said locations is accessible to only one expert of said set of experts;

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receiving a command at the server from an expert in response to the question; and

executing the command from the expert automatically.

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49. A server for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on each topic to questions posed by users in communication with client interfaces, the server being in communication with the client interfaces and the set of experts and comprising:

a question receiving component configured to receive at the server a question received from a user via one of the client interfaces;

a routing component configured to route the question to one of the experts selected using information provided with the question, wherein said routing component is further configured to display the question with other questions for said one of the experts on the personal expert interface of said one of the experts;

a command receiving component configured to receive a command from the selected expert in response to the question; and

an executing component configured to execute the command from the selected expert automatically.

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55. (Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein the command receiving component further comprises an answer-and-refer command receiving component configured to receive a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question to another one of said experts at substantially the same time.

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88. A system for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on each topic to questions posed by users via client interfaces in communication with the server, the server comprising;

a question receiving component configured to receive at one of the cli nt int rfaces a question on the selected topic;

a transmitting component configured to transmit the question from the client interface to the server;

a routing component configured to route the question to said set of experts by posting the question in plurality of locations, wherein each of said locations is accessible to only one expert of said set of experts;

a command receiving component configured to receive a command at the server from one of the experts in response to the question; and

an executing component configured to execute the command from the selected expert automatically.

Please add claims 97 to 102 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

97.   A method, executed by a server, for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on each topic to questions posed by users in communication with client interfaces to a plurality of fora, the server being in communication with the client interfaces and the set of experts, and the method comprising;

receiving at the server a question received from a user via one of the client interfaces;

routing the question to one of the experts selected using information provided with the question, wherein said routing component is further configured to display the question on the personal expert interface of said one of the experts;

receiving a command from the selected expert in response to the question, wherein said command comprises a command to post an answer to the question selectively in at least one of a plurality of fora; and

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executing and command from the selected expert automatically.

98. A server for providing answers on one or more topics from a set of experts on ach topic to questions posed by users in communication with client interfaces to a plurality of fora, the server being in communication with the client interfaces and the set of experts and comprising:

a question receiving component configured to receive at the server a question received from a user via one of the client interfaces;

a routing component configured to route the question to one of the experts selected using information provided with the question, wherein said routing component is further configured to display the question on the personal expert interface of said one of the experts;

a forum component configured to receive answers posted by said set of experts, wherein said forum component comprises a plurality of fora;

a command receiving component configured to receive a command from the selected expert in response to the question, wherein said command receiving component further comprises a post in a at least one of plurality of fora command receiving component configured to receive a command to post an answer to the question in at least one of a plurality of fora; and

an executing component configured to execute the command from the selected expert automatically.

99. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a command includes receiving a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question to another one of the experts at substantially the same time.

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100. Th method of claim 40 wherein receiving a command includes receiving a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question to anoth r one of the experts at substantially the same time.

101. The system of claim 49 wherein the command receiving component further comprises an answer-and-refer command receiving component configured to receive a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question to another one of said experts at substantially the same time.

102. The system of claim 88 wherein the command receiving component further comprises an answer-and-refer command receiving component configured to receive a command to post an answer to the question and refer the question to another one of said xperts at substantially the same time.

REMARKS

Claims 1-96 are pending in the present application. Claims 10-39 and 58-87 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 97-102 have been added.

Claims 1-7, 40-46, 49-55, and 88-94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uyama. Claims 8, 9, 47, 48, 56, 57, and 95 and 96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by the combination of Uyama and Walker.

Applicants have canceled claims 41, 42, 89, and 90 without prejudice. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 49, 40, 88 and have also added new claims 97, 98, and 99-102. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable.

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